

# CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR MISSIONARY *Lavada G. WILLIAMS-GUTIERREZ*

Sunrise                      Sunset  
November 13, 1929    February 4, 2017

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017, 10:00 AM**

PERRY TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
3443 MARKET STREET | OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94608

DR. LEONARD JACKSON, HOST PASTOR  
OFFICIANT BISHOP RANCE L. ALLEN



## HER STORY & LEGACY

Lavada Georgie Addie Perry was born on November 13, 1929 to her beloved parents the late Bishop Chester Allen Arthur Perry, Sr and Lavada Sue Perry in Oakland, California.

She was the fourth child born to this union of five children, all who preceded her in death (Clarabelle, Odell, Emma Lee and Chester Perry, Jr.). In 1934 her parents moved to Richmond California and raised their family there. They became members of McGlothen Temple COGIC, where she was very active in her father's mission work, which would later become a hidden passion of hers.

With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and through a belief in the power of prayer, she witnessed how her father lead the members of his church to pray and fast for the permit to build a church. Thus began the extension of her parent's commitment to Christ in the building of Perry Temple Church of God in Christ in 1948 at 3443 Market Street, Oakland, California.

Lavada graduated from Richmond High School and in 1949 married Roy Willis Williams, Jr (who proceeded her in death) and to this union eight children were added.

In 1953 they purchased their first home on Balfour Avenue. As a young couple, they sometimes struggled to pay the mortgage, but God always provided so that they would always have the resources to welcome the saints and many friends for meals and housing. In the early sixties, Roy and Lavada were especially honored to welcome into their home the founder of the Church of God In Christ; Bishop C.H. Mason who further blessed this home as only he could. This home of 63 years was also the very place the Lord peacefully called Lavada home early in the morning on February 4, 2017.

Lavada proved to be a unique individual with amazing commitment and focus. There seemed to be nothing she could not do and if she didn't want to do something, she committed to that, as well. Her smile and positive attitude many times was fuel to those lives she touched – letting people know you can make it and her helping hand would help you get there.

She was a savvy businesswoman and eventually ventured into the field of owning real estate. Throughout her life she has owned numerous properties for the sole purpose of providing housing for her family and others. She did this while also working her way up at the United States Postal Service. Inspired by the work of Christ to feed and clothe those in need, she also taught her children the importance of extending help to those in need. This did not just include a free meal or an encouraging word, she gave monetarily to help many organizations, churches, local and world missions, so the ministry of Christ could carry on.

Throughout her life, her passion for ministry outweighed any interest of public recognition. However In 1981 she became and was recognized as a United States Inventor when she obtained a U.S. Patent for a specialized Food Container invention, certified by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.

One of her great passions in life was caring for many people, in whatever way they needed. She just wanted to touch as many lives as she could, whether it was a family member or stranger she gave of herself for others.

In approximately 1993, Mother Louise Perrodine, noticed the many ways she was involved in ministry and her passion for the ministry of helps and missions. She encouraged her to obtain her Evangelist Missionary license in the Church of God in Christ, which she did. She felt any and all obstacles could be overcome with prayer, hard work and persistence, which was evident as she



lead projects such as raising money for the widows of the church, personally feeding the hungry, to purchasing property to construct Perry Temple's first and only much needed parking lot.

On November 15, 2014 Mayor Jean Quan officially declared that day as Lavada G. (Perry) Williams-Gutierrez Day, for her work and commitment to the city of Oakland.

While her first job was at the local cannery, her long-term vocation was completed as the Superintendent of Registry, at the United States Postal Service (*she elected to work at night so she could be there when her children left and came home from school and also so she could be in attendance at their school functions, etc.*). For 34 years, she successfully managed employees and earned everyone's respect as a strong leader within the USPS. Eventually, four of her children followed in her footsteps and began careers working and retiring from the postal service.

In 1990 she married her best friend Rufus (Dartello) Gutierrez, affectionately known as *Dart*. Dartello proved to be a devoted, loving husband. He loved her and her entire family and they loved him too. Dartello was there through many joys and sorrows of family life and all who knew him loved how he loved Lavada. They traveled the world together, whether it was camping with the Happy Rollers or on one of their many cruises to tropical islands or Paris France, London England and even parts of Canada, they were together enjoying life, together.

Through the years, the family grew and enjoyed family reunion trips, from Disneyland to annual trips to R-Ranch at the Lake, and of course the annual Christmas-Eve dinner. Lavada enjoyed life and remained a strong matriarch in making sure the family stayed together. With God's grace and her example of unconditional love, all families anticipated spending time with each other.

At church, she was known as Mother Gutierrez. Through business, she was known as Mrs. Gutierrez. Other names, of course, were Mom, Mamma, Mother, and Grandmother. The most cherished name that she was most proud of was - The Great Mother! And to her family, she will always be The Great Mother. Her greatness was not just in her words, but also in her actions. Her greatness was not just in her ability to recite and expound on scripture, but in the sermon she lived while here on earth.

Since her passing, the family has been trying to grasp their own sense of transition to life, on earth, without such a phenomenal woman and matriarch to lead the family. She often ended the phone calls with "See you tomorrow, Lord Bless." As everyone moved away from the city, or just became involved in family life, she would end phone calls with "I love you much" and we would respond, "I love you more." Now, the Great Mother is enjoying her Great Reward. As she rests in peace, we know that she leaves a legacy of hope, determination and belief in oneself and abilities despite circumstance.

In this garden of life, she touched many through the gift of giving, listening, and prayer. May her legacy continue to remind us that we are not far removed from God's presence. Made in the image of God, she reminds us that life's challenges are only an impetus for finding greater purpose in God.

She leaves to cherish many fond memories, a loving husband of 27 years, Rufus Dartello Gutierrez, Her half sister; Eunice Perry-Severe of Canada, Her children; Roy W. Williams, III, of Berkeley, CA; Gerald J. Kelley (Perine) of Killeen, TX, Gwendolyn McClure of Garner, NC, Linda D. Chatman of Oakland CA, Lavada M. Thompson (Ronald, Sr) of Castro Valley, CA, Phillip M. Kelley of Pittsburgh, CA, Celeste D. Bosley of Sacramento, CA, and Chester A.A. Williams of Berkeley, CA. 40 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, many cousins, nieces, nephews, and a host of other relatives, friends and the Perry Temple Church Family.



**CELEBRATING**  
*Missionary Lavada G*  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY**

**MASTER OF CEREMONY  
ELDER ELMER AVERY, JR.**

**MUSICAL PRELUDE ..... KEVIN COLE  
PERRY TEMPLE REUNION CHOIR**

**PROCESSIONAL ..... CLERGY & FAMILY**

**INVOCATION ..... PASTOR LEONARD JACKSON, SR.  
PERRY TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS OLD TESTAMENT ..... PULPIT  
NEW TESTAMENT ..... PULPIT**

**SELECTION ..... PASTOR ROBERT LYONS  
REFRESHING FOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**

**FAMILY TRIBUTE ..... JANETTA JAMERSON, NIECE  
EDMINGTON, ALBERTA, CANADA**

**GEARY BLEDSOE, GRANDSON  
DALLAS, TEXAS**

**CANDACE LAUGHINGHOUSE, GRANDDAUGHTER  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

**EXPRESSIONS ..... TWO (2) MINUTES**

**SELECTION ..... DENIECE WASHINGTON**



# NG THE LIFE OF

*G. Williams - Gutierrez*

**FEBRUARY 13, 2017**

REFLECTIONS ..... MOTHER MARY WELCH  
VICTORY TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
SEASIDE, CALIFORNIA

SISTER ALINE LOTHLEN  
MINGLETON TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

BISHOP ERNESTINE C. REEMS  
CENTER OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CONDOLENCES ..... SIS. BRENDA LOGAN

SELECTION ..... PERRY TEMPLE REUNION CHOIR

RESOLUTIONS ..... MOTHER BOBBIE MILLER, PERRY TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
NAOMI HAMMONDS: CENTER OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL CEMINARY  
PRAYER TOWER, CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

OBITUARY ..... MOTHER ALICE EVANS

SELECTION ..... LADY PAMELA HUNT  
GOD'S GRACE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

EULOGY ..... BISHOP RANCE L. ALLEN  
BETHEL BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
TOLEDO, OHIO

FINAL GLIMPSE TIL GLORY - FAMILY

RECESSIONAL



To my Dearest Mother,

You were God's gift to me,  
Always giving of yourself in every way  
Your love brought joy beyond measure  
Until we meet again on the other side  
You'll forever be in my heart.

Love you more,  
Your daughter, Dolly

Mother, you taught us to embrace our faith  
and you showed me unconditional love.

Love you forever – Linda

We will always honor and remember you for being a  
phenomenal matriarch for our family. Thank you for  
always supporting us with valuable advice and often  
the means to carry forth our dreams. "See you in the  
morning Lord Bless". - Candace

Grandmother always seemed excited to see or hear from me. She would  
often tell me to keep God first, love my family, give generously and buy the  
worst house in the best neighborhood. – I love your grandmother. - Brian

Grandmother, thank you for allowing me to share  
your name and teaching me how to be an independ-  
ent woman. Thank you for also being an excellent  
example on how to care for others. I will forever love  
you and rest well.

Love,  
Angela (Lavada #4)

Grandmother was a loving person she would always say to everyone. I am not  
here to stay and she was right. I will always love you grandmother – Miranda

Mama, you will be forever in my heart, and I know you must have  
gotten a glimpse of glory to be able to leave me. I miss you now, I'll miss  
you forever! – Gwendolyn Marie

Mother,  
You were a example second to none! And  
set the standards very high for me merely  
by being who you are! I have been truly  
blessed to have you as MY MOTHER! My  
love will continue throughout eternity!

"Love You MORE!"  
Celeste

We loved and followed  
her as she followed the  
Lord. She raised her  
children to work and do  
the same. I will always  
love you mother.

- Chester

My Grandmother has not gone away, she just  
has a new position, to watch over our family in  
heaven. Love you Grandmother – Anthony Troy

She taught us that God and family are the most  
important things. To support each other and love  
one another. Though she is gone, this will live in  
us forever. Love you Grandmother. Geary.

Grandmother I will truly miss you. Things won't quite ever be the same.  
Nonetheless, I will continue to live by the values you instilled in me.  
Love you always. Marcus.

Mom-thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a home filled with love. The  
life lessons that you taught me as a child continue with me as an adult now and forever.  
Love your son Phillip









### ACTIVE PALL BEARERS

ROY WILLIS WILLIAMS, IV  
ANTHONY TROY WESTBROOK  
MARCUS DWAYNE BOSLEY

GEARY LAWRENCE BLEDSOE  
JEKELVIN BERNARD LAUGHINGHOUSE  
ARMANI WILLIAMS

### HONORARY PALL BEARERS

ROY WILLIS WILLIAMS, JR  
GERALD JEROME KELLEY  
PHILLIP MAURICE KELLEY

CHESTER ALLEN ARTHUR WILLIAMS  
DELBERT LEE McDONALD  
BRIAN MCCLURE

### NO TEARS

Shed no tears my children for me  
Be the persons I raised you to be  
I didn't come here to stay always  
I was only traveling through a few days  
No tears for the last days of this life  
Look to the Lord for He is the Light  
Look up and you will see  
Why no tears, no tears for me  
You made my life meaningful and complete  
By the many memories and deeds  
Sometimes I'd lay awake at night  
Wondering if you all were alright  
But seeing your smiling faces when you came by  
No tears my family, for I'll forever be by your side  
My love will never leave  
For you were blessings God gave to me  
So as I made my last stay here  
Remember children no tears, no tears for me!

### Acknowledgements

The family of Lavada G. Williams-Gutierrez wishes to express their sincere appreciation for each act of kindness that has been expressed through your cards, flowers, prayers, presence, and words of encouragement. A sincere thank you to all appeared on program. Your devotions and prayers have strengthened and blessed us much more than you could ever imagine. May God richly bless each of you.

The Williams-Gutierrez Family

### SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bishop J. W. Macklin and the Glad Tidings COGIC  
Joel Clifton, Clifton Photography  
Bro. Douglas Edmunds  
Brother Kevin Cole & the Perry Temple Reunion Choir

Prayer Tower COGIC  
Perry Temple COGIC  
Chicago Theological Seminary  
Nona Best, Garner, North Carolina

### Final Arrangements

Fouche Hudson Funeral Home  
3665 Telegraph Avenue | Oakland, CA 94609

### Internment

Rolling Hills Memorial Park  
4100 Hilltop Drive | Richmond, CA 94803

A Repast with the family of Lavada G. Williams Gutierrez will be held at  
Glad Tidings Fellowship Hall | 26789 Tyrell Avenue | Hayward, CA 94545